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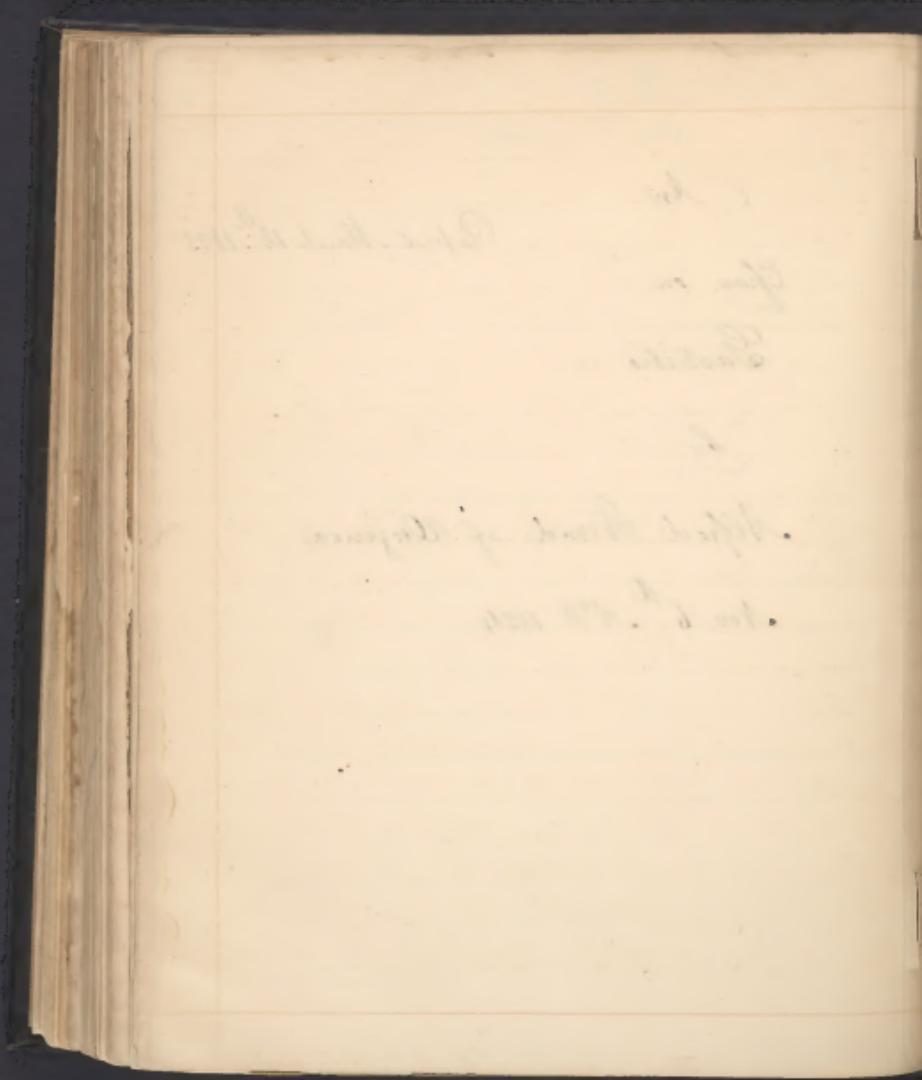
Pray on

Gastritis

by

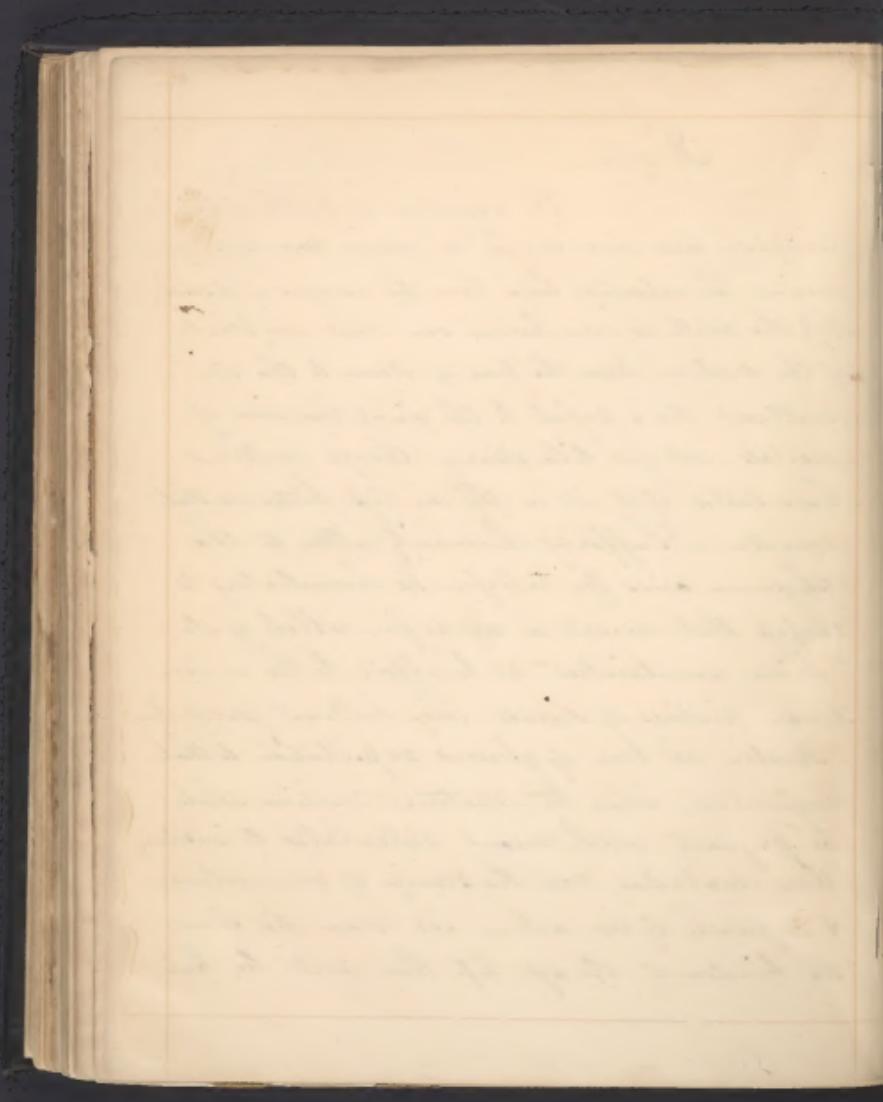
Alfred Friend of Virginia

Nov. 6th A.D. 1824



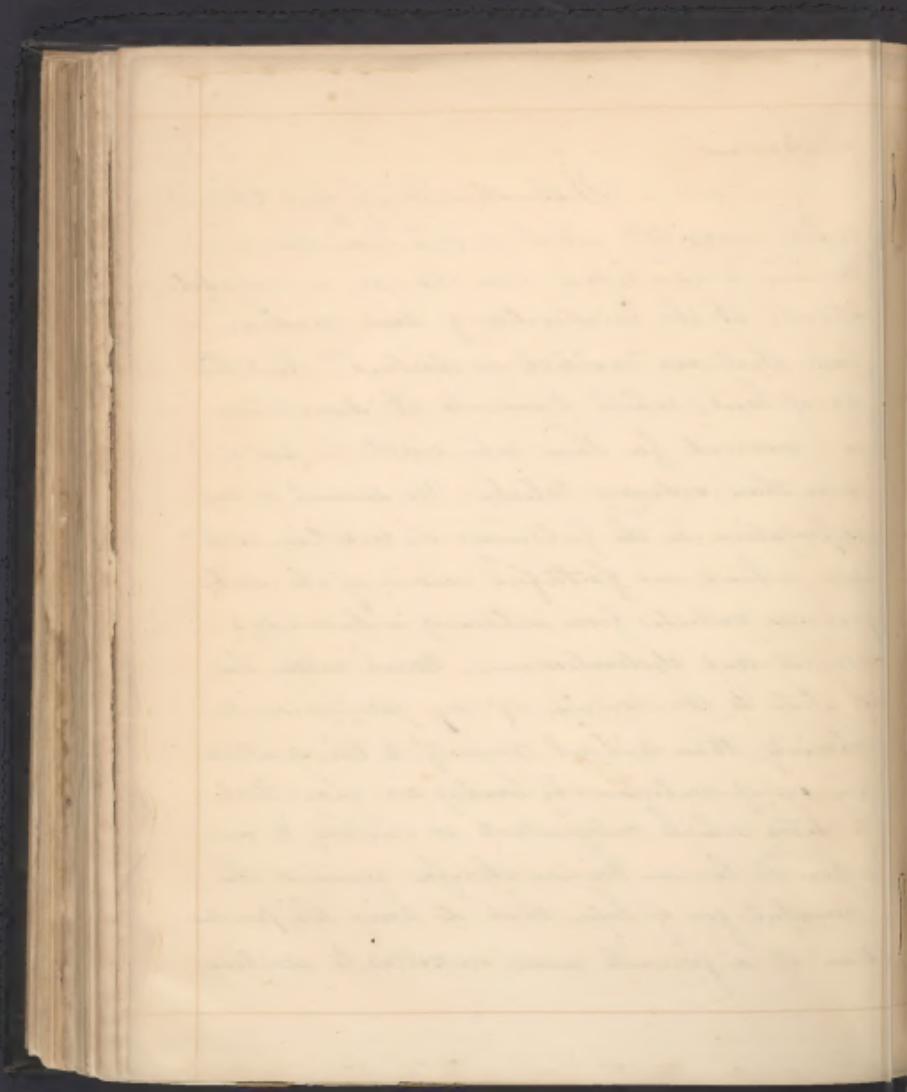
Preface -

The enjoyment of health uninterrupted was never one of the many privileges of man. So extensive have been the ravages of disease, that this earth is now become one vast receptacle of the dead. From the time of Adam to this day millions have passed to the final mansion of mortals and yet like slavery though millions have tasted of it, it is the more ~~less~~ bitter on that account. Suffering humanity uttered to the physician, cries for relief. His humiliating to confess, that our art is not so far robbed of its "glorious uncertainties" as to afford to the unfortunate victims of disease more brilliant prospects. Hasten oh time of glorious expectation to that ~~con~~uncture, when the *Materia Medica* shall be pregnant with means calculated to subdue those maladies, now the scourge of our nation & reproach of our art - Let man die from the burden of old age, let then will be but



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I should willingly feel the
sulful responsibility, which devolves upon those who
presume to give opinions, were this essay, a successful
attempt at the investigation of some medical
fact that now "walketh in darkness". But this
joy of heart, which transcends all description
is reserved for those who wield the pen, of
more than ordinary talents. The summit of my
expectation in the following dissertation, is to
give a lucid and faithful record of its sub-
ject as collected from authors of acknowledged
merit and distinction. Much rather had
I glided to the exercise of my profession, in
obscurity, than subject myself to the scrutinizing
eye of criticism by writing an essay. But
to avoid which an graduate is contrary to an
inflexible law. For me therefore remains the
mournful joy of hope, that its being the produc-
tion of a juvenile mind, impelled to exertion

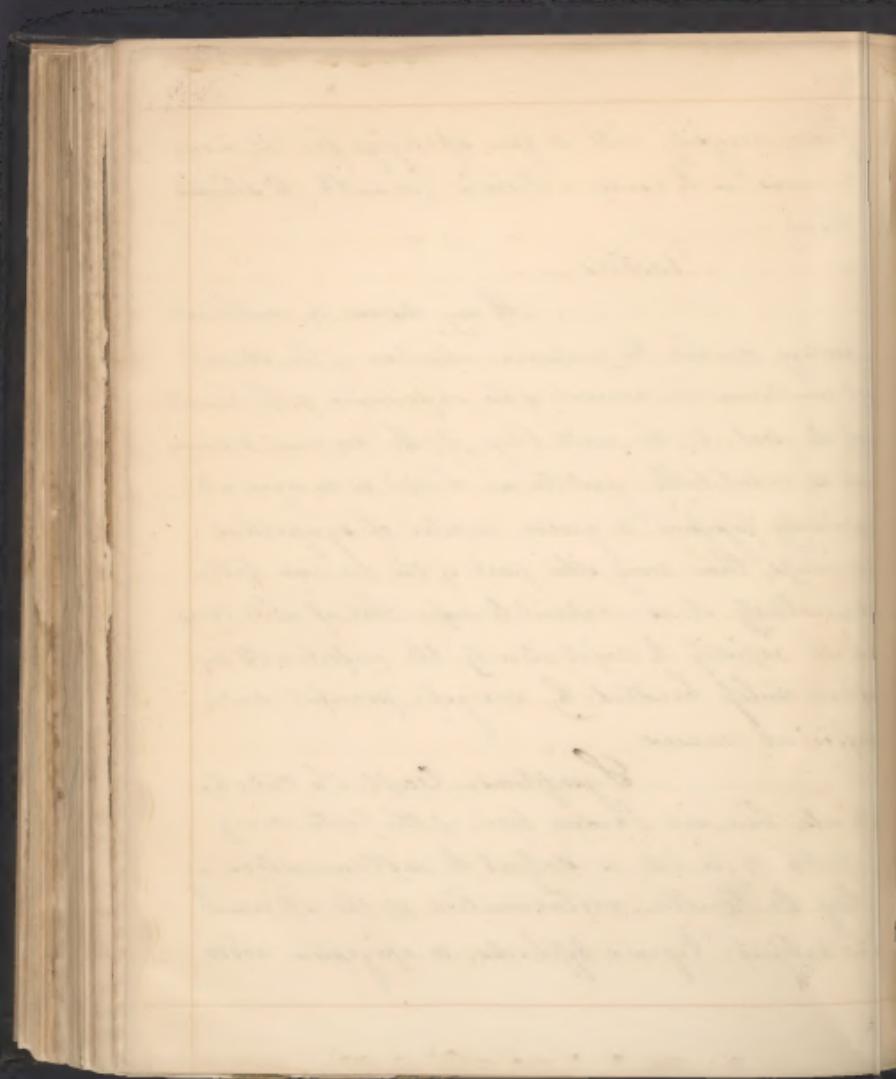


from necessity, will so far apologize for its inaccuracies, as to cause oblivion mantle to shroud them.

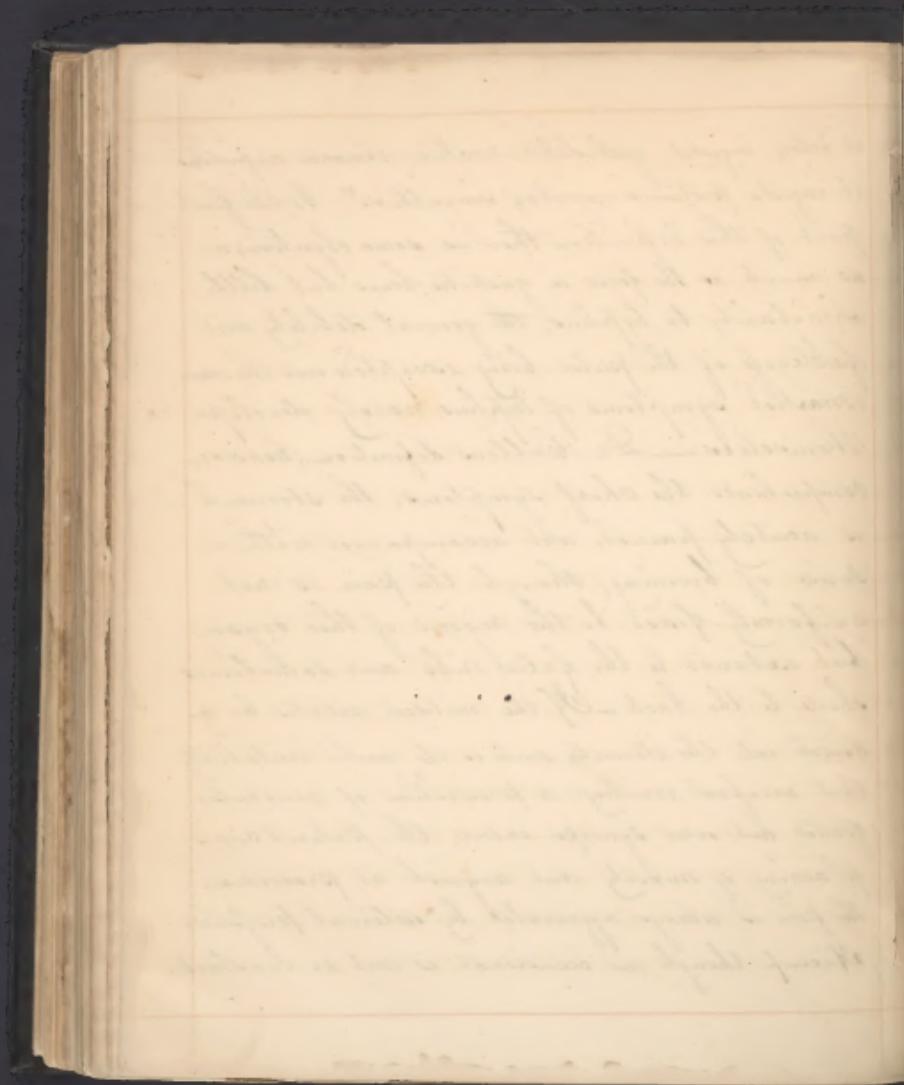
Gastritis.

If any disease in methodical nosology demand the particular attention of the student of medicine, on account of the importance of the health of its seat to the well being of the animal economy, it is undubitably gastritis. Located in an organ, individually possessing a greater number of sympathies perhaps, than every other part of the human fabric collectively, it is natural to infer that it will carry with rapidity to awful eternity the unfortunate sufferer unless bristled by energeted, powerful and efficient means.

Symptoms. Except the cuticle, nails, hair, and hardest part of the teeth, every portion of the body is subject to inflammation. By Dr Cullen, inflammation of the stomach is defined "Pyrexia typhodes, or epigastric ardor.



et dolor, ingestis quibuslibet auctis; vomendi copioſitas
et ingesta protinus rejetat singultus." To the first
part of this definition there is some objection, in
as much as the fever in gastritis bears but little
similarity to typhus, the general debility and
fableness of the pulse being excepted and the more
marked symptoms of typhus rarely developpe
themselves ~~under~~ ⁱⁿ Dr. Cullen's definition, however,
comprehends the chief symptoms; the stomach
is acutely pained, and accompanied with a
sense of burning, though the pain is not
uniformly fixed to the regions of this organ
but extends to the false ribs and sometimes
shoots to the back. If the mildest articles be re-
ceived into the stomach such is its morbid irritability
that incipient vomiting, a prostration of muscular
power and even syncope ensue, the patient com-
plaining of anxiety and anguish at praecordia;
the pain is always aggravated by external pressure
hiccup though an occasional is not so constant

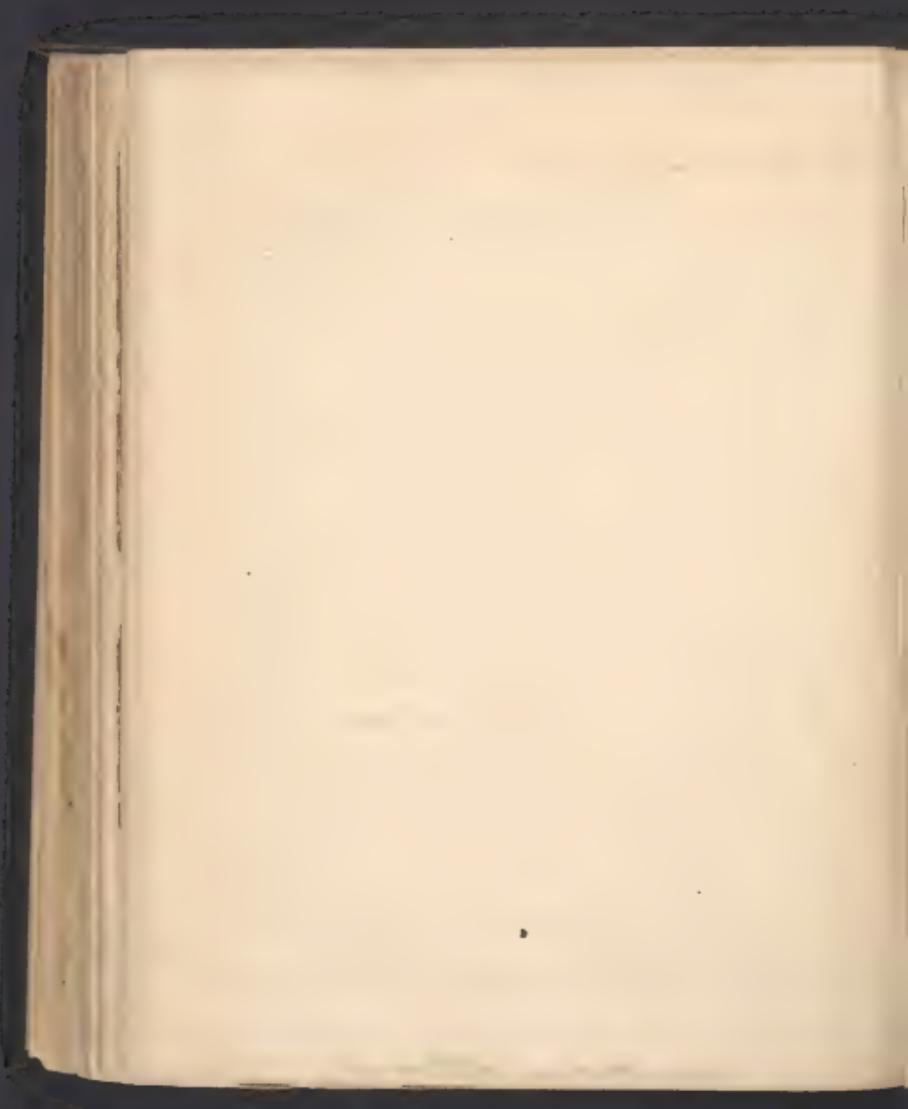


a symptom as vomiting. The pulse is frequent contracted, small, more or less hard and occasionally intermitting. Burdettus according to Dr. W. Philip, &c. serves that the pulse is sometimes strong, but that fact we conceive can seldom occur, when the characteristic features of this disease are well developed, because of the powerful sympathy that manifestly exists between the stomach and arterial system. The thirst is intolerable; its gratification affords some respite from pain, but is deceptive and transitory - the disease being soon repeated. The bowels are costive and obstructively so, if the inflammation shall have extended to them and the incessant vomiting precludes the possibility of opening them, by the administration of medicine by the mouth. When great prostration of strength with faintings, a short interrupted respiration, cold clammy sweats and lucups occurs with cold extremities and an intermittent pulse, the conjunctiva is haggard and the patient soon removed beyond the spheres of earthly trials and tribulations.

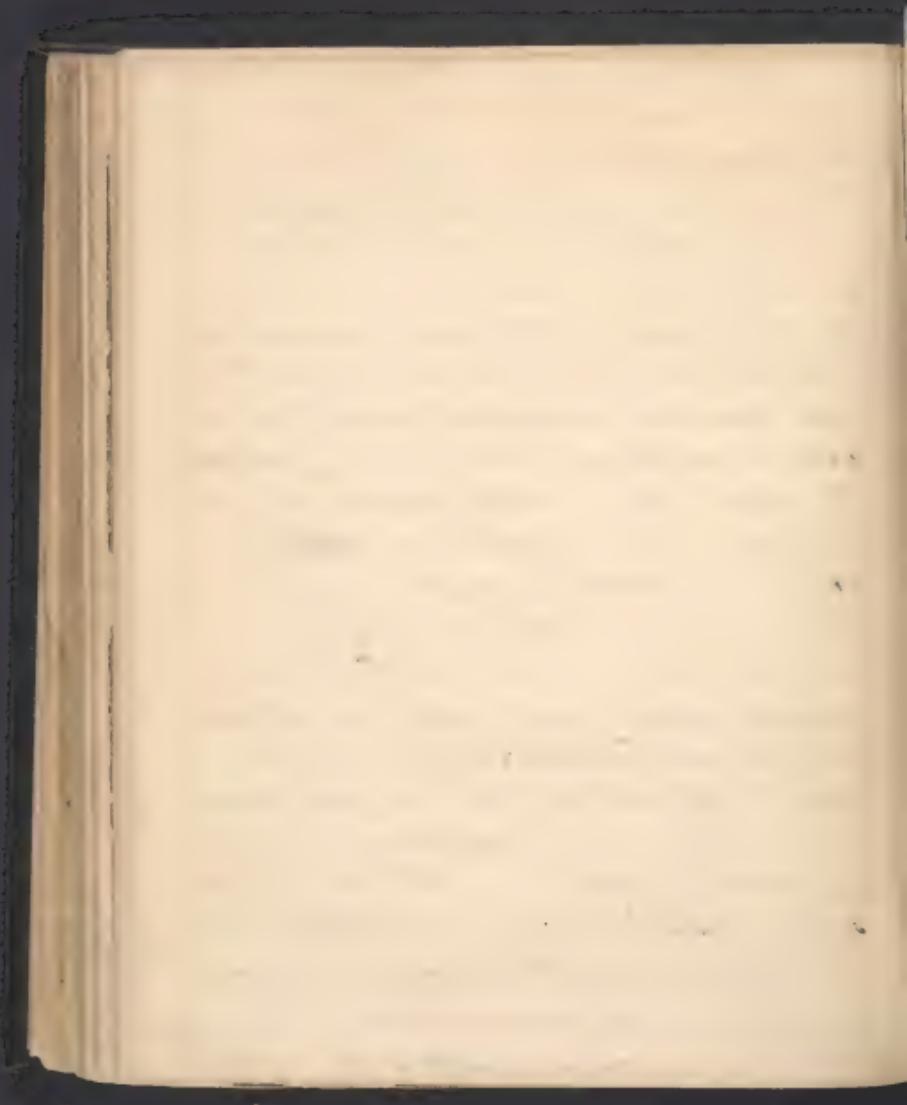


The Anomalous Symptoms of gastritis are many. The patient sometimes complains of Dyspnoea, which does not arise as is commonly imagined in consequence of the extension of the inflammation to the lungs, but from the inflammation of the stomach rendering the descent of the diaphragm painful. It is evident that the nearer the inflammation is to the diaphragm, the greater will be the dyspnoea. Another anomalous symptom attending gastritis is hydrophobia. On this symptom it is exceedingly difficult to account though it supervenes to many acute disorders. Gastritis is sometimes attended by convulsions, which arise from irritations of the peritoneum rather than the disease itself. Beside these, there are many more anomalous symptoms which occur from delusive sympathy as, pain and inflammation in the great toe, acute tenesmus in the bowel.

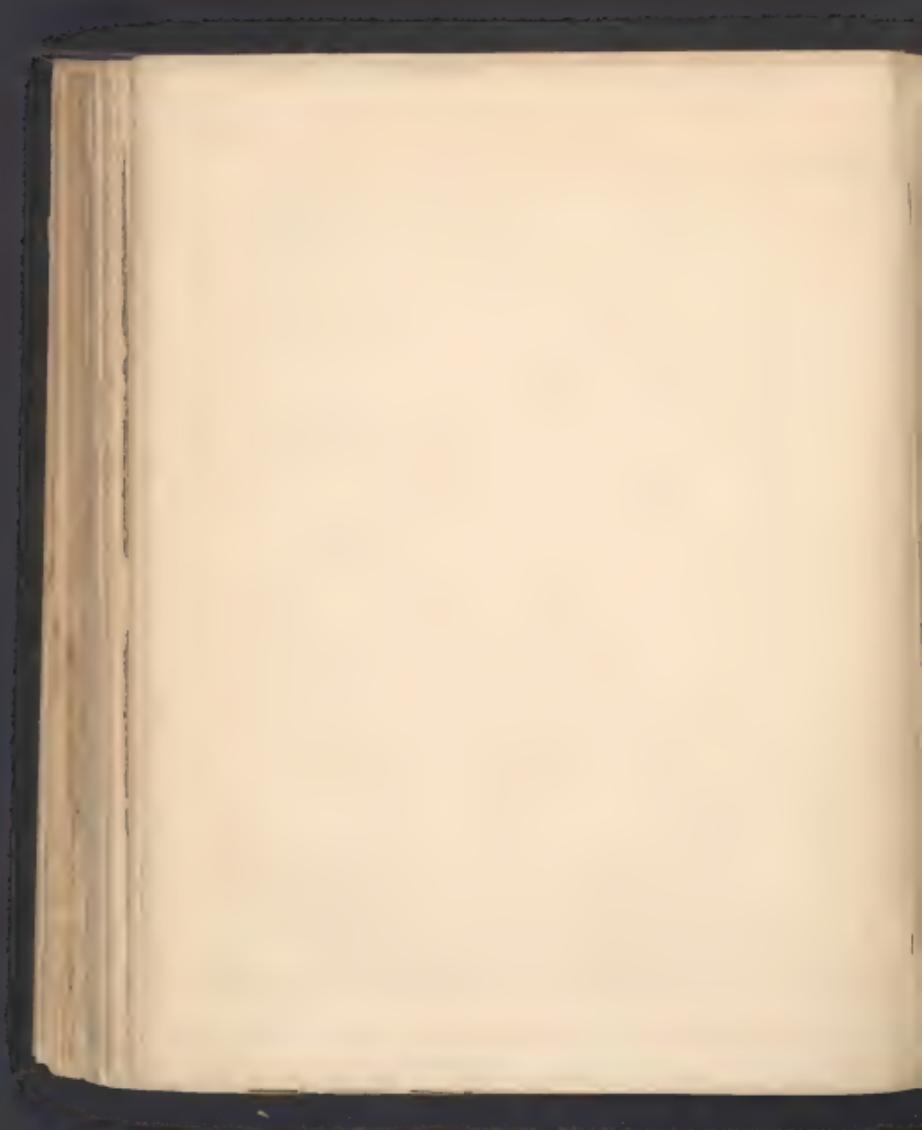
Diagnostic Symptoms - The pains of gastritis may, possibly, though not easily be mistaken for



other pains of the stomach. The spasms and flatulent pains of this organ, the pulse is natural or so little altered, that if this were the only diagnostic symptom should seldom err; nor are these pains accompanied by that sudden prostration of muscular power, which attends gastritis. Vomiting in them is not a symptom universally attendant nor is pain and vomiting certainly excited by ingesta. One of the best diagnostic symptoms of gastritis, is the augmentation of ~~fever~~, when pressure is made on the epigastrium. In these there is no increase of pain from pressure nor is there any constant a complaint. The voice of a patient labouring under gastritis is comparatively free and his cries piercing, whereas in spasm of the stomach there are a suffocation and contraction, amounting oftentimes to a total suppression of voice. It has been considered difficult to distinguish gastritis from an inflammation of the epigastric muscles.



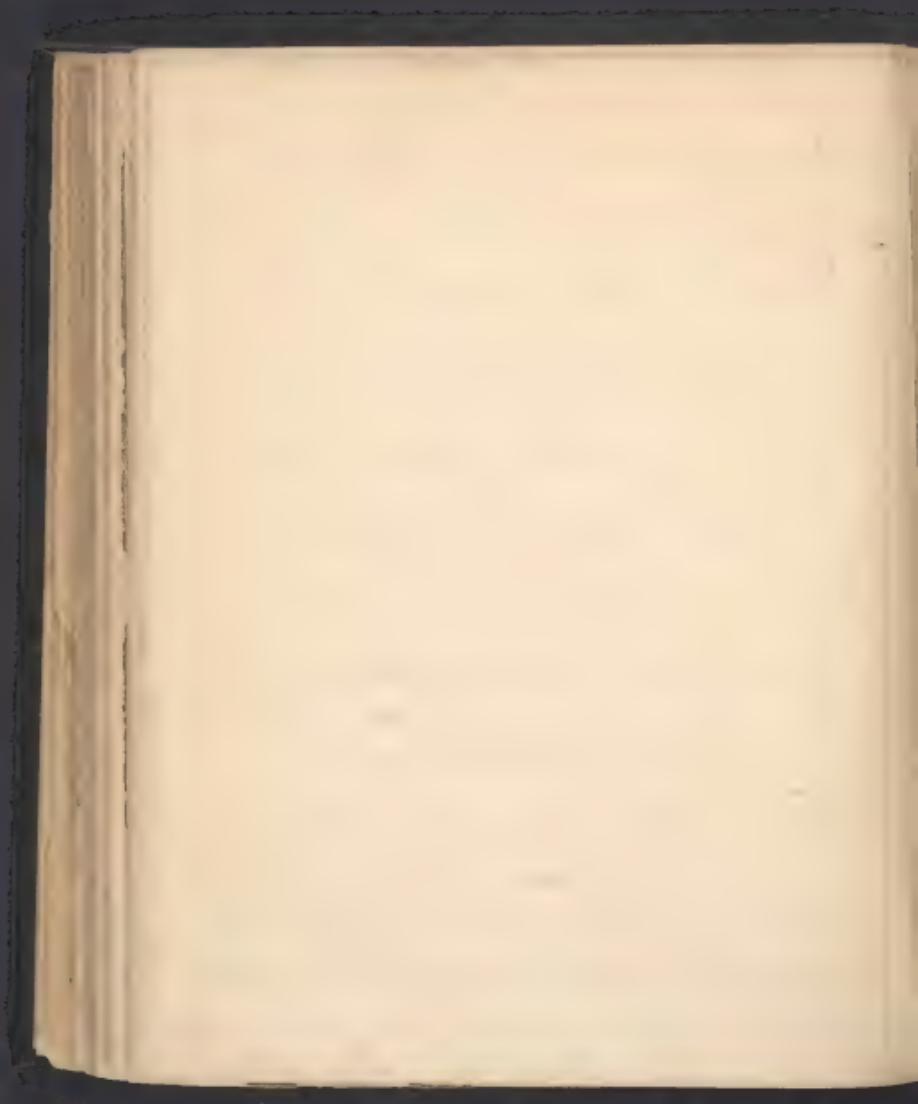
Although the symptoms of the two diseases are so much
blended and incorporated, it is hard to distinguish, and
the natural method difficult to run. When the epigastric
muscles are called into action, the pain of gastritis is not
more greater; but if the inflammation be seated in the
muscles by such motion the pain is greatly increased.
The pulse in the latter case as in the phlegmaceous
generally, is strong if at all affected and not small
and frequent as in gastritis, in. Some degree of
swelling of the muscles is usually apparent in
nearly every case of their inflammation and there
is no nausea. Some fulness however is often
about the stomach also in "gastritis." By a man
according to Dr. Philip it is said a diagnostic be-
tween these cases is unimportant, since the practice
in them is the same. This observation is not without
its error. The greater sympathies of the organ affec-
ted by gastritis, impresses us with the necessity of
promptly directing effective means to it, lest by the
continuance and progress of diseased action such



unrelenting symptoms shall abide in his dependence
to the powers of medicine.

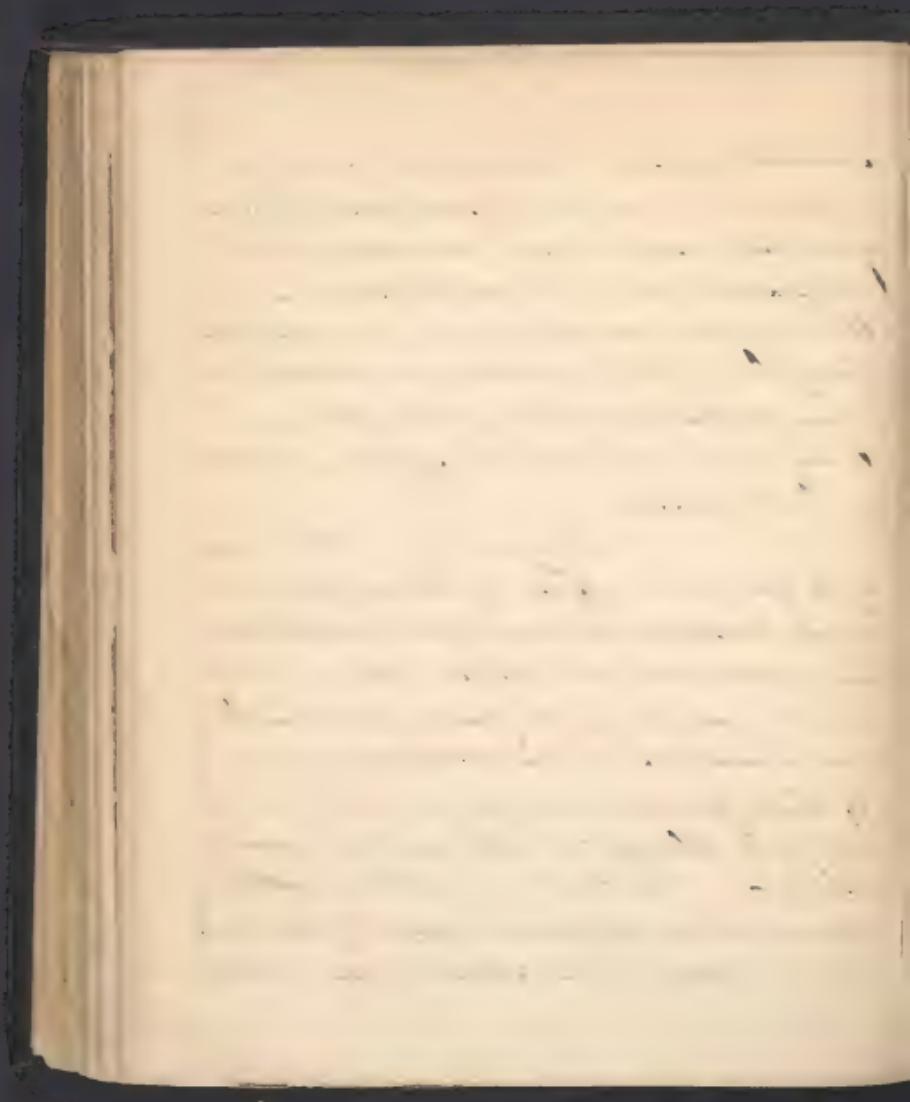
Prognosis— Boerhaave in enumerating the
terminations of gastritis says "It used to terminate
like all other inflammatory diseases into
health, suppuration, Schirnus, cancerous, gangrenous
distempers or into sudden death itself, which
is hastened by convulsions" As in the Phlegma-
nia generally, the tendency of this disease to admit
of resolution is known, by its having arisen from
a slight cause, the symptoms being moderate and
yielding to appropriate remedies in the commencement
of the disease. If the symptoms are violent
and do not suffer remission, the period of resolu-
tion is generally past within truly four hours....
In less violent cases however, it may take place at
a later period when considerable remission occurs.

The tendency to terminate in sup-
puration is ascertained by the continuance of the
symptoms in a moderate degree without any con-



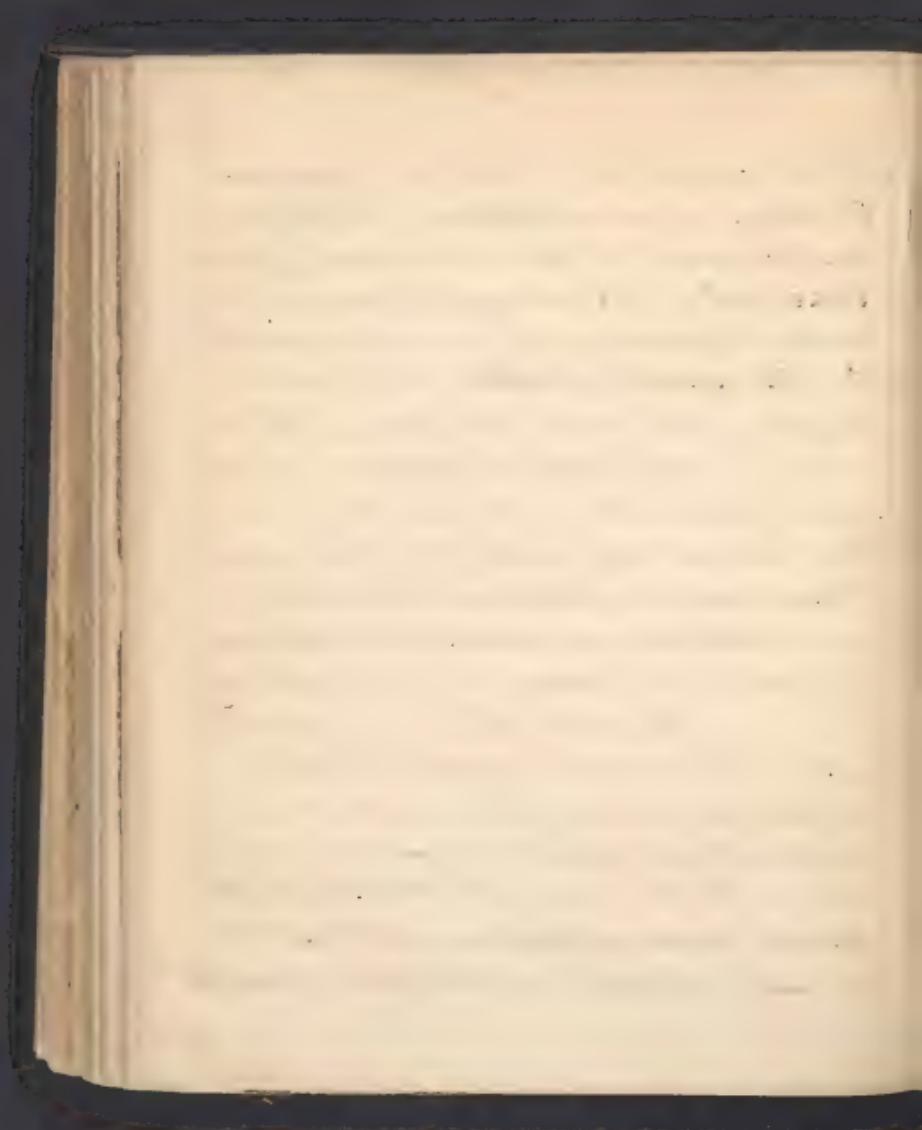
considerable remission - The exertion of an abruption is known by a remission of pain preceded by rigours; but a sense of weight and anxiety about the precordia remain to harass the patient - When these symptoms occur the pulse is diminished in frequency, but is shortly afterwards again increased with rigours, marked exacerbations in the afternoon and evening, night sweats, and other symptoms indicative of hectic fever -

Strong evidence of the tendency to gangrene is offered by the symptoms continually unsubdued or unmitigated notwithstanding the judicious and well directed practice resorted to, in the early part of the disease; and when begun is indicated by the sudden cessation of pain; by the pulse continuing its frequency but growing weaker; by delirium and other marks of increasing debility - The event of gastritis is seldom favourable, as the patient is usually destroyed by the violence of the attack or else it terminates



dates in suppuration, ulceration or gangrene.
The danger of an imposthume of the stomach
must be evident to all. It usually proves
fatal unless it burst into the stomach, the
matter being discharged by vomiting or stool. &
the ulcer speedily healed. Notwithstanding
the opening of the abscess into the stomach, cases are
recorded, in which death took place as a conse-
quence from the ulcer. Cft. These cases, some-
times, terminate very suddenly by hemorrhagy.
Adhesion sometimes takes place between the sto-
mach and abdominal parietes from inflamma-
tion and then the abscess may burst externally.

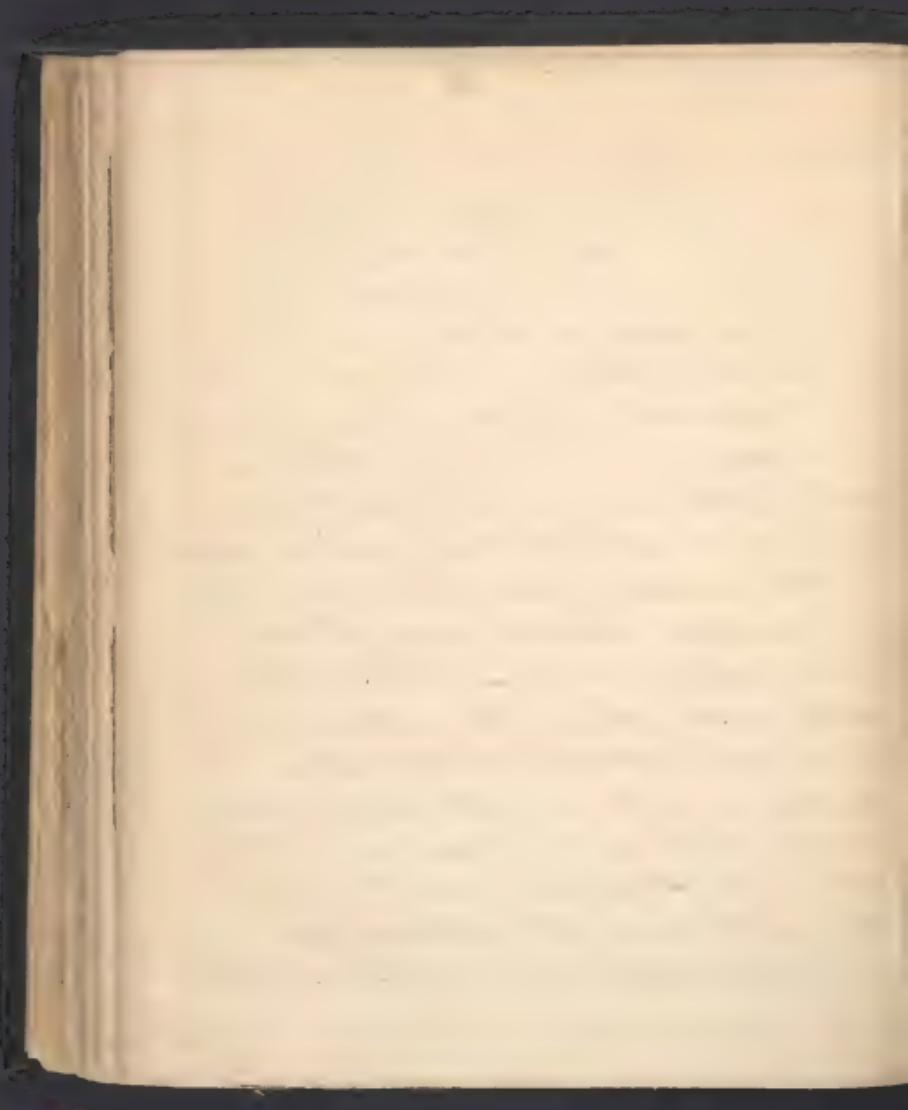
The termination in gangrene is as
unfavorable as can be imagined, for it proves
uniformly and speedily fatal. — Its termina-
tion in either suppuration or gangrene is an
event to be studiously avoided; but of the
two evils, choose suppuration as the least, for
the case is recorded, in which the contents of



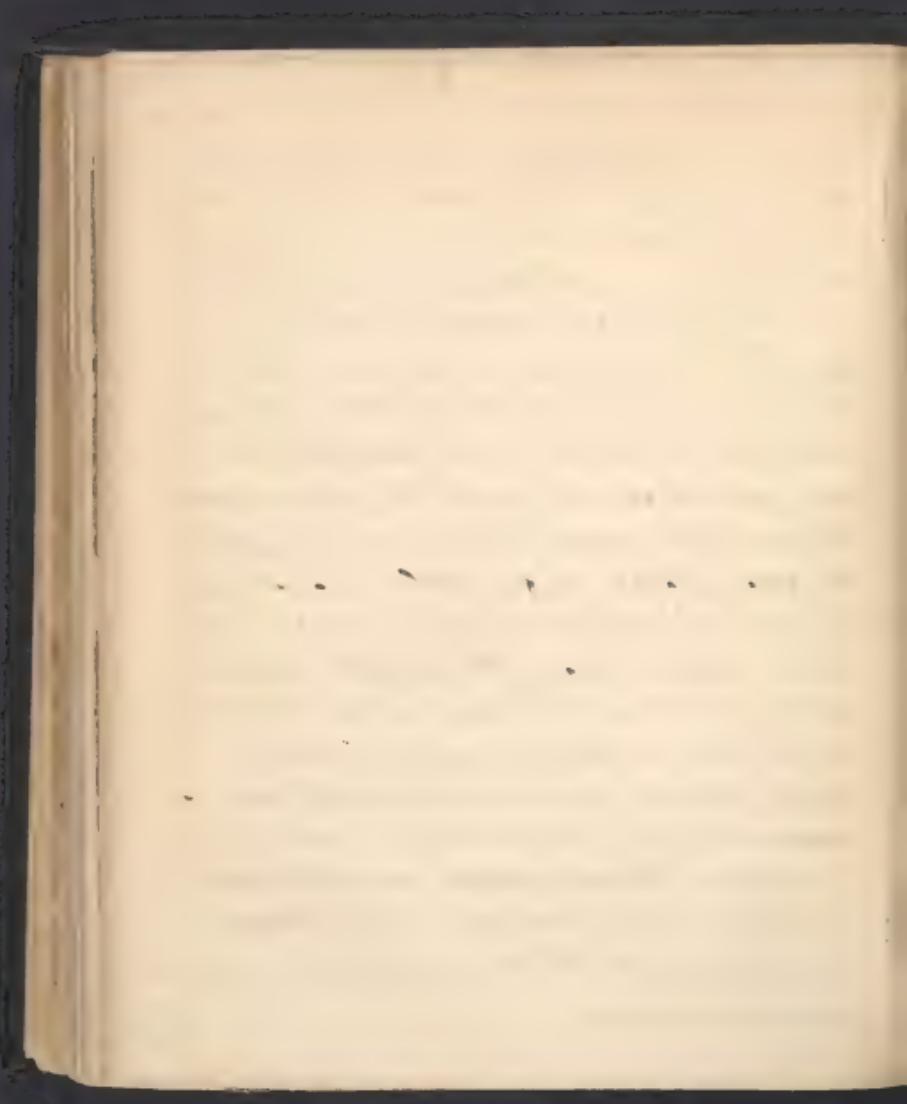
an abscess were externally discharged, so that it became necessary for the space of twenty three years to keep the opening closed by compresses and bandages. Maintaining the exceedingly tenacious of life and submit to sufferings almost intolerable, to sustain it. Paroxysms occur, sometimes, original, and prove fatal. In consequence of the bursting of an abscess into the abdominal cavity. The modern writers agree generally that Schistosus & Cancer have their origin from a cause different from that of inflammation and are therefore considered by them not the result of inflammation as formerly believed. Dr. Gibow says "As regards the immediate cause of Cancer innumerable hypotheses have been framed. That which appears nearest to truth, it seems to me, ascribes the disease to animalcular origin or as contended by Adam and Carnichac to the presence of hydatids thus giving to Cancer an independent vitality".



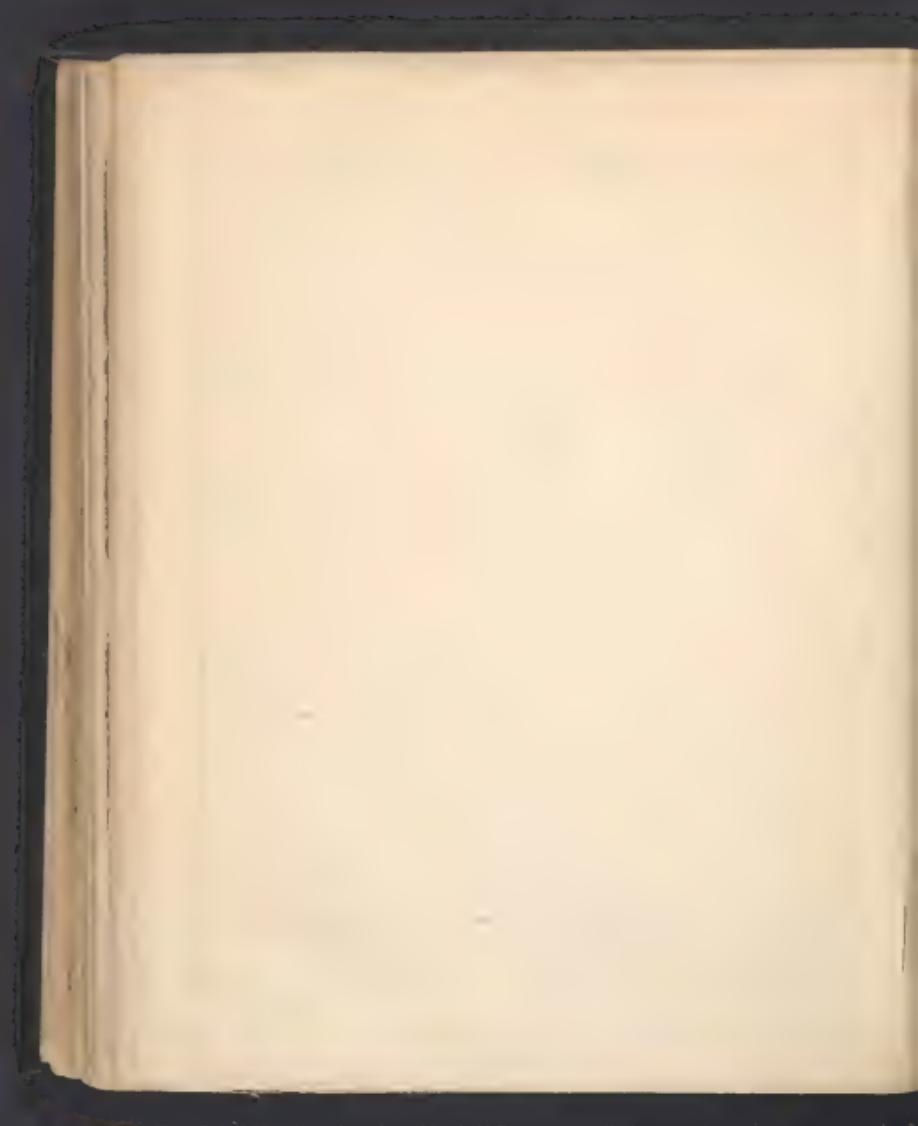
Such is the sympathy that exists between the stomach and other vital organs, that gastritis occasionally seems to prove fatal on this account, ^{as in} Cullen observes "Says the susceptibility of the stomach, and its communication with the rest of the system, it will be obvious that the inflammation of this organ by whatever causes produced, may be attended with fatal consequences - In particular by the great debility, which such an inflammation suddenly produces, it may quickly prove fatal without running the common course of inflammations." And Boerhaave as before said observes, that it occasionally causes sudden death with convulsions and causes of gastritis - The remote predisposing causes of this disease, are the same as in other inflammatory diseases - Among the exciting causes of this disease, the application of cold, in various ways holds a conspicuous place.



no cause being more frequent than the collecting of perspiration from cold objects. Acid substances frequently excite this disease and especially when the mucus of the stomach, has been so altered and vivified as to excite its destined purpose babbly; and it is a fact known and acknowledged and deserves to be recollect that those substances most acrid to the taste are not those which when taken into the stomach, excite the greatest irritation. The spices, for example though strongly affecting the sense of taste, are frequently received into the stomach without resulting inconvenience and tartarised Antimony, though quite insipid, occasions excitement the most violent. All substances however, strongly affecting taste, irritate the stomach in some degree and if used immoderately by the predisposed may excite gastritis. Drastic emetics and cathartics, have been ranked as causes of this disease and are as doubt the causes occasionally.



Since they are possessed of irritating power -
the more irritating articles of dirt, have also been
charged with creating this disease - The immo-
rata use of animal food and fermented liquors
very readily excite it in the predisposed -
and renew it in those lately recovered - Over-
distention applies a very hurtful irritation
to the stomach - Mechanical causes frequent-
ly produce this disease - as a blow on the epigas-
tric region, a wound of the stomach or some
contiguous part, the pressure of the osseous
Cartilage from dislocation or fracture -
When gastritis arises from inflammation of the
neighboring part it is symptomatic - I have
now enumerated the chief occasional causes
of gastritis - Malignant fevers are so frequently
accompanied with gastritis, and cuterely
that we are induced to suppose their cause
to attack the stomach primarily, & perpetuate
locally its deleterious effect - In crutica.

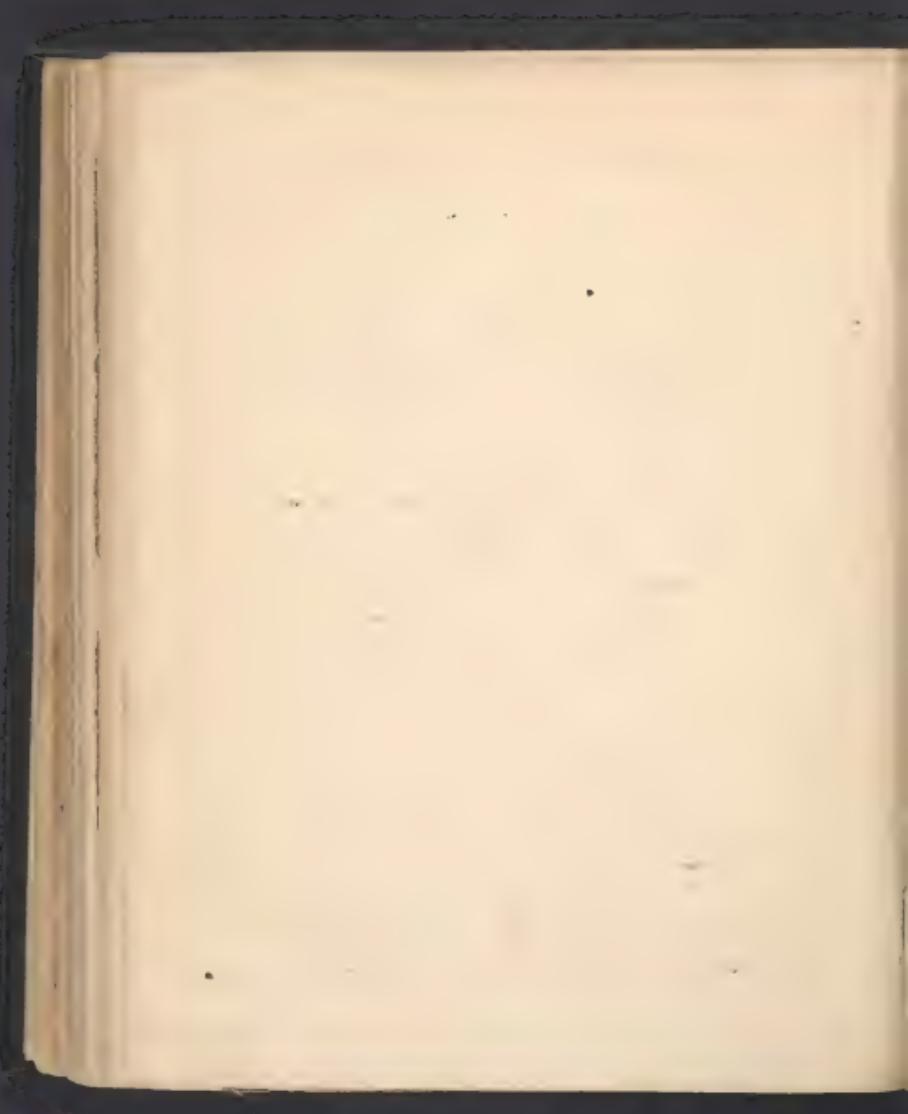


fever it occasionally supervenes on the sudden recession of the eruption and probably soon runs into gangrene—an event confirmed by the great debility that attends and post Mortem examinations.

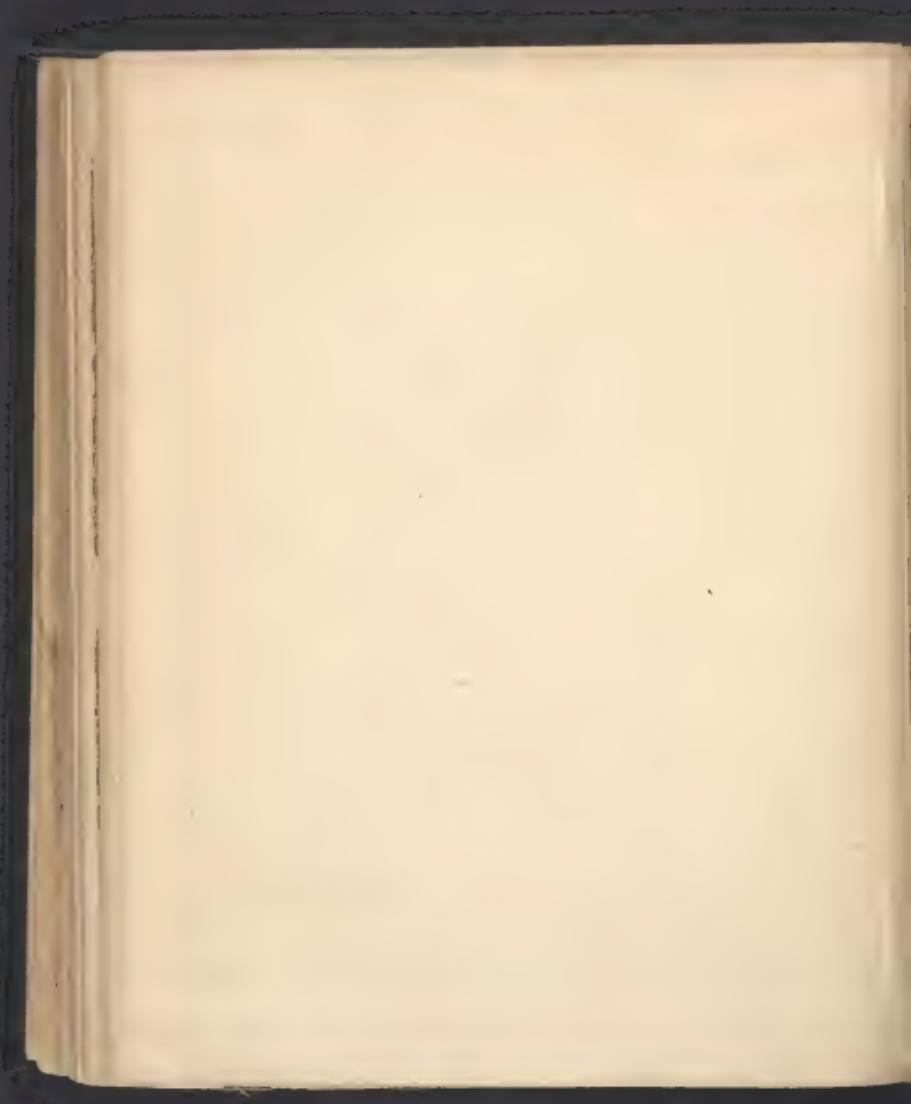
Treatment of gastritis.—Usually the indications are very obvious in a disease so violent and afflicting as important a viscera. In the treatment of the pleurisy, resevation is the sheet anchor of hope, but in no case is it carried to a greater extent than in gastritis. As soon as its symptoms are developed the lancet should be drawn from its case and a quantity of blood taken, proportionate to their severity or carried as far as the habit will bear, and the smaller and weaker the pulse provided the disease is idiopathic, informs us that early and copious bleeding is the more necessary. By Dr. Cald. with the annotator of Cullen's first lines, Blood



is directed to be drawn to considerable extent in
small and frequently repeated bleedings, but
by professor Chapman copiously. Blood-
letting in ordinary cases is called into requi-
sition to diminish the strength of the pulse,
but in this instance it is employed to increase
it and its efficacy is proportional to the
degree of increase of strength and diminu-
tion of hardness of the pulse. A correct
determination should therefore be made
between a strong and a hard pulse. An
image cannot convey too forcibly the impor-
tance of early bloodletting in this disease.
The circulation sometimes in the course
of a few hours becomes so languid as to
render it impossible to extract the requi-
site quantity of blood — the patient
falling a sacrifice to a disease origi-
nally controllable by bold, resolute
and decisive practice. After copious



Convalescence the symptoms of gastritis totally disappear, but the affection is transitory and a recurrence of the disease almost always happens. — The repetition of venesection must be regulated as in the phlegmaria generally — the loss of the venipuncture after the first bleeding, the sooner must it be repeated and to the greater extent. — Evacuations by the bowels must be elicited by cathartic glysters, and not by the exhibition of purgatives by the mouth, which by exciting vomiting would aggravate every symptom of the disease. — To this as to all general rules there are exceptions. Overdistension of stomach is sometimes the cause of gastritis and in this case the patient is tormented with ineffectual efforts to vomit. The load it is evident must be removed. — Under such circumstances emetics and cathartics taken by the mouth are the only effectual means; but as a hurtful irritation would be excited in the stomach, by the exhibition of

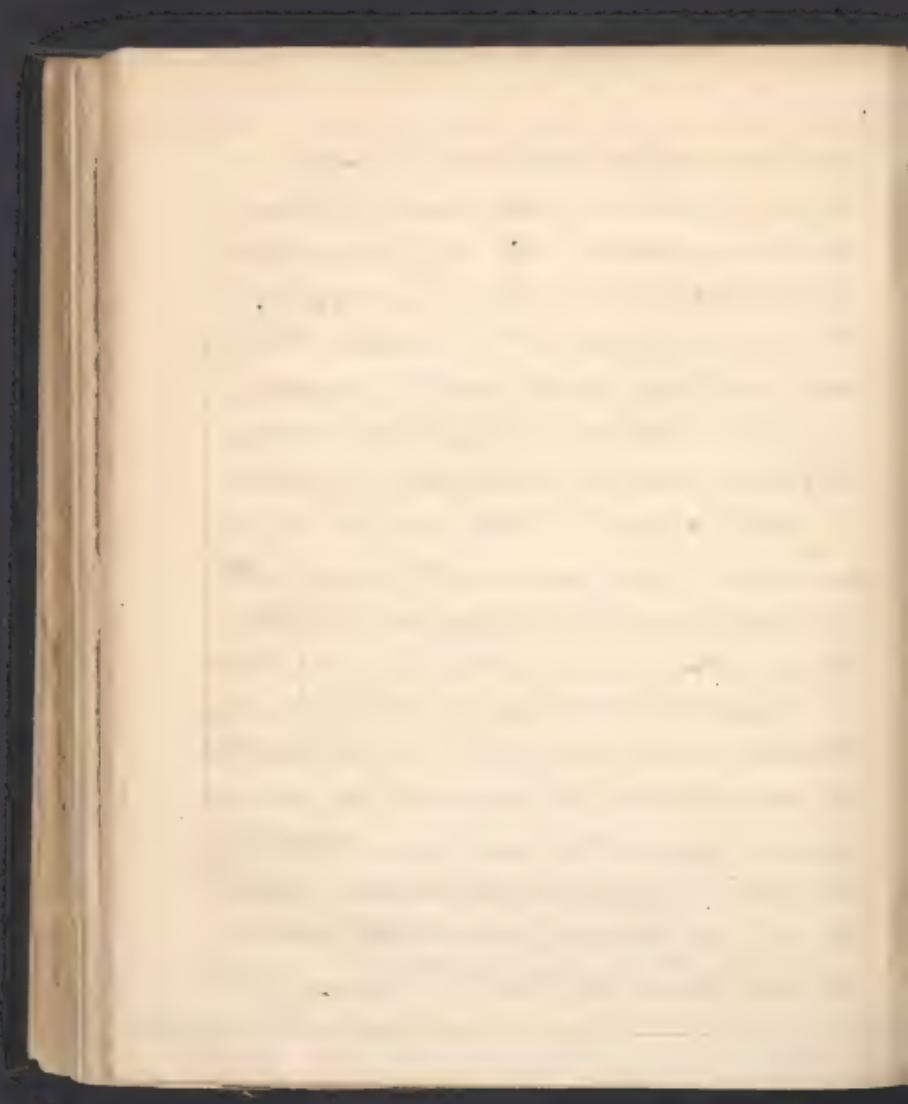


an emetic, the cathartics only is administered, &
still farther to assist the due action of the
stomach, the bowels should be excited by phys-
ics. By these means a part of the stomach's con-
tent will pass into the intestines, and this
remainder be expelled by vomiting. In all
cases as soon as the disquietude of the
stomach shall be allayed, calomel
should be administered. Calomel is
preferable to all purgatives as it is less irrita-
ting, insipid, and of considerable specific gravity.
It should be administered in pills.

When this disease has been occi-
ted by acrid or poisonous substances received into
the stomach, we must also give medicines
by the mouth. Of the specific corrector or
counteragent for unknown we must endeavor
to promote the vomiting by a combination of
white tartar with Spermac or with the sulphate
of Copper. The doses should be large.



as the susceptibility of the stomach is almost de-
stroyed in those cases where a narcotic poison
has been swallowed. — Even large doses will some-
times fail to produce the desired effect.
We may perhaps succeed by distilling the sto-
mach with warm water; applying cataplasms
of tobacco to the oesophageal orifice; tickling
the fauces with a feather or an injection
of tartar emetic. — These resources failing,
we should have recourse to professor Phy-
sic's instrument for pumping out the offen-
ding matter; and if we can have access to it
we should think it proper in the first instance
Cathartic medicines in the form of pills, should
be administered in these cases when the poison has
been so long swallowed as to warrant the belief
that it has passed into the intestines. — Gly-
cine are good adjuncts, for while they relax
the lower bowels, they tend by sympathy to

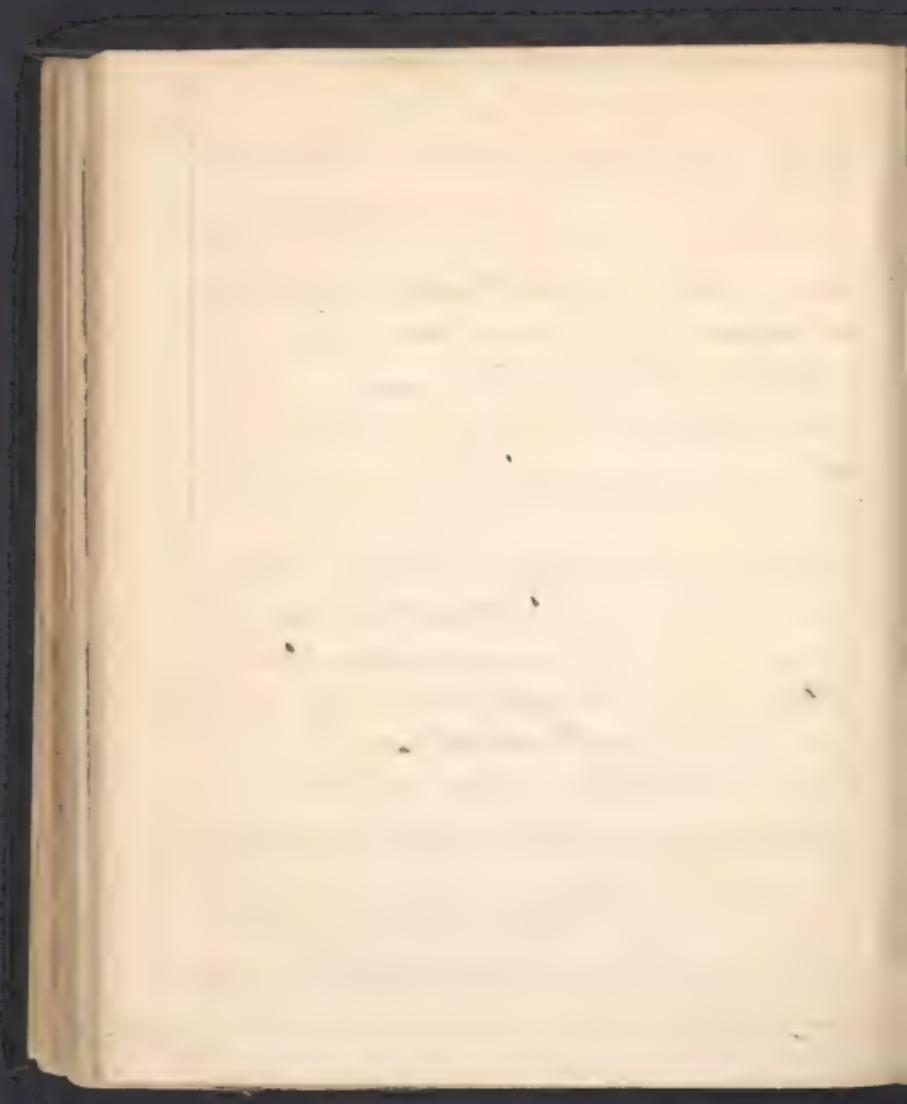


increase the peristaltic motion of the whole alimentary canal - Milder mucilaginous enemas are useful even when diarrhoea is an attendant, for they allay irritation & extract any offensive matter the intestines may hold even Local blood-letting though so frequently resorted to in the phlegmasia generally is seldom resorted to in gastritis, but it may be employed on this with the same good effect and is peculiarly adapted to those symptomatic cases in which general blood-letting is inadmissible or at least an ambiguous remedy - It should be always resorted to in case of general blood-letting provided suddenly affected ⁱⁿ ^{the} Blister to the epigastrium are more frequently employed than local blood-letting and produce, usually the most pleasure, if applied after the hardness of the pulse has abated in consequence



of the diligent use of the lancet. Mortification
to the abdomen though feeble remedies, con-
duced to comfort the patient and should be
used. The warm bath deserves more notice
as a remedy; it excites perspiration, composes the
patient, eases the stomach and causes centrifugal
dissipation. The thirst in this disease as be-
tween states is very urgent. The patient should
be allowed simple water lime water and now
with the great irritability, a thin mucilage of
gum arabic, sweet milk diluted with twice
its quantity of water or some mild acidulous
fluid. The drinks should be taken in small
quantities & frequently repeated, even these mild
articles will be frequently rejected, notwithstanding
the extreme caution observed
in their exhibition.

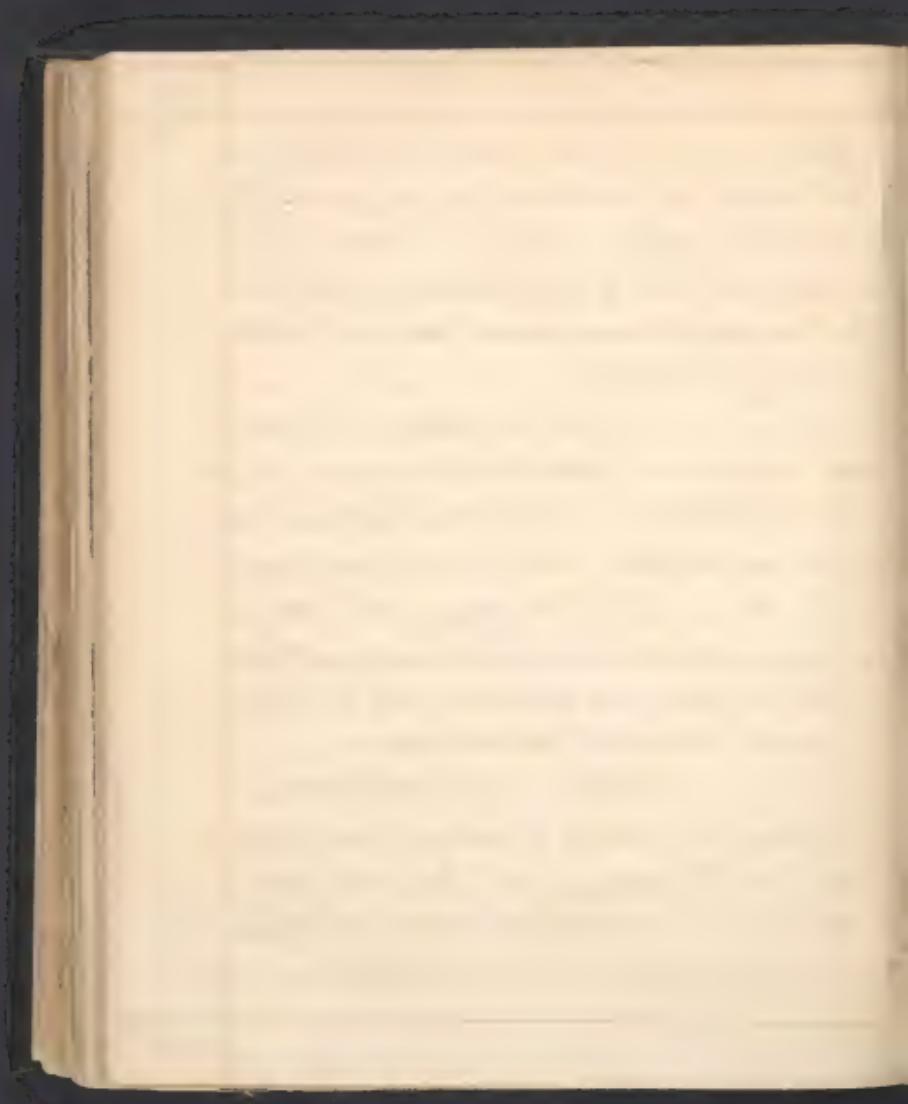
When indications of apoplex
being gauged are visible we must rely on



Opium, which in this and other cases has a tendency to oppose the occurrence of gouty gout. If opium fails, Professor Chapman confidently recommends the use of the *spiritus terribilis* thence. It is no doubt an important remedy, when judiciously used—

The duration of the disease renders an attention to diet necessary, and should be regulated on the same principle as drink. An abstinence from food during the first days of the disease is desirable; but when it continues longer it is necessary to support the patient by some mild preparation—

Opium or its preparations so frequently used to allay vomiting should be carefully avoided till this disease till the advanced stage when the violence of the disease is



broken by evacuations - Aurdyn glyptes
and even mild opistos by the mouth,
(the bowels being attended to) considerable
circumstances allay the worms and
abridge the disease - The objection
to Opium in the first stage is its power
to increase the vis a tergo, but when
the pulse is reduced and consequently
but little hardness remaining as in
the second stage, the objection ceases -

The colperation of the pa-
tient now should be moderate and uni-
form - When gastritis supervenes on the sudden reception of erup-
tions, the means of recalling them so far as
the nature of the disease admits should
constitute a part of the practice - When
the symptoms of suppuration appear,
Medicines can be of little further use and

if the patient is saved it is by the acci-
dental seat of the abscess. If it opens
into the stomach, irritating articles of diet
must be avoided till the ulcer is
healed. When by its bursting an ulcer
is formed externally, it should be
treated surgically. Gangrene of the sto-
mach is always fatal.

To the professors of this
university, I feel grateful for the information
derived from their lectures. That they may
fill their chairs with the same credit as here
before and enjoy health & happiness is the
sincere wish of - the author

